



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

HEADQUARTERS
MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE - IRAQ
BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO AE 09342-1400

MNFI-CG

19 MAY 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Civilian and Contractor Wear of Military Uniforms

1. The improved security environment and transition of U.S. Forces to Security Agreement-based operations in Iraq require a reassessment of the current policy that allows members of the DoD civilian component and DoD contractors to wear the uniforms of the members of the U.S. Forces, i.e., U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, within the Iraq Joint Operational Area (JOA).
2. Principles of the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) oblige the U.S. both to protect civilians and at the same time distinguish its military members. Civilian use of military member uniforms, even with non-military insignia, does little to distinguish uniformed civilians from military members as required by LOAC.
3. During the height of U.S. combat operations in Iraq, CG MNF-I, pursuant to DoD policy, authorized civilians to wear military uniforms in order to reduce the likelihood that they would be targeted by terrorist elements. The improved security environment within the Iraq JOA now mitigates the necessity for this exception.
4. In addition, Article 13 of the Security Agreement (SA) addresses the issue of civilians wearing military member uniforms. The SA expressly authorizes only members of the U.S. Forces to wear military member uniforms. According to this provision, members of the DoD civilian component and DoD contractors are excluded from wearing military member uniforms while in the Iraq JOA. Additionally, civilian use of military member uniforms may be contrary to Iraqi domestic law, which prohibits civilians from wearing military uniforms. The U.S. has agreed to respect Iraqi law when operating within the Iraq JOA.
5. Accordingly, members of the DoD civilian component and DoD contractors are no longer authorized to wear military member uniforms in the Iraq JOA. Exceptions to MNF-I Uniform Policy, Memo 11-1 ANNEX R, may be granted in accordance with the relevant FRAGO. Members of the DoD civilian component and DoD contractors within the Iraq JOA have 45 days from the date of this letter to comply with this guidance.

RAYMOND T. ODIERNO
General, USA
Commanding

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